the differences in the vision correction powers of the central zones **118***a* and **118**. The anterior surface of a contact lens which is to have the vision correction powers of FIG. **16** can be shaped as discussed above in connection with FIG. **15**. FIG. **20** shows by way of example how the anterior surface **125***a* of the contact lens may be shaped to provide the variable vision correction powers of FIG. **16**.

Although exemplary embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, many changes, modifications and substitutions may be made by one having ordinary skill in the art without necessarily departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. A multifocal ophthalmic lens for providing vision correction powers, said lens being adapted for implantation in an eye or to be disposed on or in the cornea, said lens having a baseline diopter power for far vision correction power, said lens having a central zone and a first outer zone radially outwardly of the central zone, said central zone having a progressive power region in which the vision correction powers vary progressively and in radially outwardly extending order from an intermediate vision correction power, to a far vision correction power and then to a diopter power which is less than the baseline diopter power.

2. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the lens has anterior and posterior surfaces with one of said surfaces being configured to provide said vision correction powers, said one surface having a base curve defining said baseline diopter power for far vision correction power.

3. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the vision correction powers of the central zone are continuously variable.

4. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the lens has an optical axis extending through the central zone and the vision correction power increases from the optical axis to said intermediate vision correction power.

5. A lens as defined in claim **4** wherein the vision correction power at the optical axis is less than the baseline diopter power.

6. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the mean power in the central zone is about the baseline diopter power.

7. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the central zone is no greater than about 2.25 mm in diameter, the first outer zone is contiguous the central zone and has a far vision correction power adjacent the central zone and a region having a near vision correction power, the vision correction power of the first outer zone between the far and near vision correction powers being progressive.

8. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the intermediate vision correction power is the greatest diopter power of the central zone.

9. A lens as defined in claim **8** wherein the lens has an optical axis extending through the central zone and the vision correction power increases from the optical axis to said intermediate vision correction power, and the vision correction power at the optical axis is less than the baseline diopter power.

10. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the diopter power which is less than the baseline power is in an outer peripheral region of the central zone.

11. A lens as defined in claim **1** wherein the first outer zone is annular and circumscribes the central zone.

12. A lens as defined in claim **11** wherein the first outer zone has a far vision correction power adjacent the central zone and a region having a near vision correction power, the vision correction power of the first outer zone between the far and near vision correction powers being progressive.

13. A lens as defined in claim **12** including a second outer zone which is annular and circumscribes the first outer zone, said second outer zone has a far vision correction power and a region having a near vision correction power, and the vision correction power between the far and near vision correction powers of the second outer zone is progressive.

14. A lens as defined in claim **13** wherein each of said regions has a major segment in which the near vision correction power is substantially constant.

15. A lens as defined in claim **14** wherein the lens has a third annular zone between the first and second annular zones, said third annular zone being for far vision.

16. A multifocal ophthalmic lens for providing variable vision correction power, said lens being adapted for implantation in an eye or to be disposed on or in the cornea, said lens having an optical axis, said lens having a plurality of annular zones circumscribing the optical axis, each of first and second of said annular zones having a far vision correction power and a region having a near vision correction power, the vision correction power between the far and near vision correction powers being progressive, each of said regions having a major segment in which the near vision correction power is substantially constant, the lens having a central zone circumscribed by the annular zones, said central zone having a progressive vision correction power which is less than near vision correction power throughout the full radial dimension of the central zone.

17. A lens as defined in claim **16** wherein the lens has a third annular zone extending between the first and second annular zones, said third zone having a vision correction power which is less than near vision correction power throughout the full radial dimension of the third annular zone.

18. A lens as defined in claim **17** wherein the third annular zone has a major segment with a far vision correction power which varies.

19. A lens as defined in claim **17** wherein each of the first and second annular zones has far vision correction powers on opposite sides of said region of such zone and the vision correction power is progressive between said region and the far vision correction powers on the opposite sides of said region.

20. A lens as defined in claim **16** wherein a first of the major segments lies radially inwardly of a second of the major segments and has a greater radial dimension than the second major segment.

21. A lens as defined in claim **16** wherein the lens has an anterior surface and a posterior surface and one of said surfaces has an aspheric section providing the near vision correction power for at least a portion of one of said major segments.

22. A lens as defined in claim **21** wherein said one surface is aspheric throughout said annular zones.

23. A lens as defined in claim **16** wherein the central zone has intermediate and far vision correction powers and the progressive vision correction power of the central zone blends the intermediate and far vision correction powers of the central zone.

24. A lens as defined in claim **16** wherein said central zone has a vision correction power which varies in a radial outward direction from a far vision correction power to an intermediate vision correction power to a